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Claims

1. Use of a selected form of dietary protein which increases protein concentration or rate of protein synthesis in a selected organ as a protein source in the preparation of a nutritional formula for promoting the growth or recovery of the specific organ in a mammal.
2. Use according to claim 1 in which the dietary protein is a protein hydrolysate having a degree of hydrolysis of at least about 30% for the preparation of a nutritional formula for increasing protein concentration and synthesis in the small intestine.
3. Use according to claim 2 in which the dietary protein is used in the preparation of a nutritional formula for increasing protein concentration and synthesis in the duodenum.
4. Use according to claim 2 or claim 3 in which the protein hydrolysate comprises more than about 30% by weight of di- and tri-peptides and has a non protein nitrogen concentration of at least about 85% of total nitrogen.
5. Use according to claim 1 in which the dietary protein is (i) a protein hydrolysate having a degree of hydrolysis of at least about 15%; (ii) free amino acids; or (iii) mixtures thereof, for the preparation of a nutritional formula for increasing protein concentration and synthesis in the jejunum.
6. Use according to claim 5 in which the dietary protein is a protein hydrolysate which comprises more than about 20% by weight of di- and tri-peptides and which has a non protein nitrogen concentration of at least about 60% of total nitrogen.
7. Use according to claim 1 in which the dietary protein is in the form of free amino acids for the preparation of a nutritional formula for maintaining muscle protein synthesis and for the prophylaxis or treatment of muscular atrophy.

8. Use according to claim 7 in which the dietary protein is used in the preparation of a nutritional formula for mammals having compromised gut function.
- 5    9. Use according to claim 1 in which the dietary protein is a protein hydrolysate for the preparation of a nutritional formula for increasing protein concentration and synthesis in underdeveloped intestines of premature babies.
10. Use according to claim 9 in which the protein hydrolysate comprises more than about 30% by weight of di- and tri-peptides and has a non protein nitrogen concentration of at least about 85% of total nitrogen.